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The Supreme Court recognizes our motor vehicle as an extension of our home but the State Courts do not. For one purpose and in one Court, our motor vehicle is an extension of our home and the Fourth Amendment applies but when it comes to self-defense that opinion changes. We have a “duty to retreat” that makes no sense at all. Retreat where? How?

To date, the Courts have supported Castle Doctrine, but there is no denying that the Court’s views change with the political tide and that we are still very limited, and confused, by what the Courts have defined as our “Castle.” An attached garage is our castle, but an unattached garage is not? An attached porch is – perhaps – depending on how it is attached, if it is enclosed, or whatever other gray area occurs to a Prosecutor or Judge and Jury? That’s a terrifying idea.

Similarly, I would have to first convince the Court system that I had done everything I could to flee before I defended myself. It would be a matter of judgment as to whether I had fled to the best of my ability. I am a 53-year old mother, grandmother and high school science teacher. I am responsible and have made the decision to carry a concealed firearm for my own defense and the defense of others if needed. I did not make that decision lightly and I consider my responsibilities daily. I am not a cowboy and I am not looking for trouble, but if trouble comes to find me, as a law abiding citizen, in places like my home, car, garage or back yard, I should not have to leave it to the vagaries of the Court system to decide if I ran far enough, fast enough, or tried hard enough, to escape a situation.

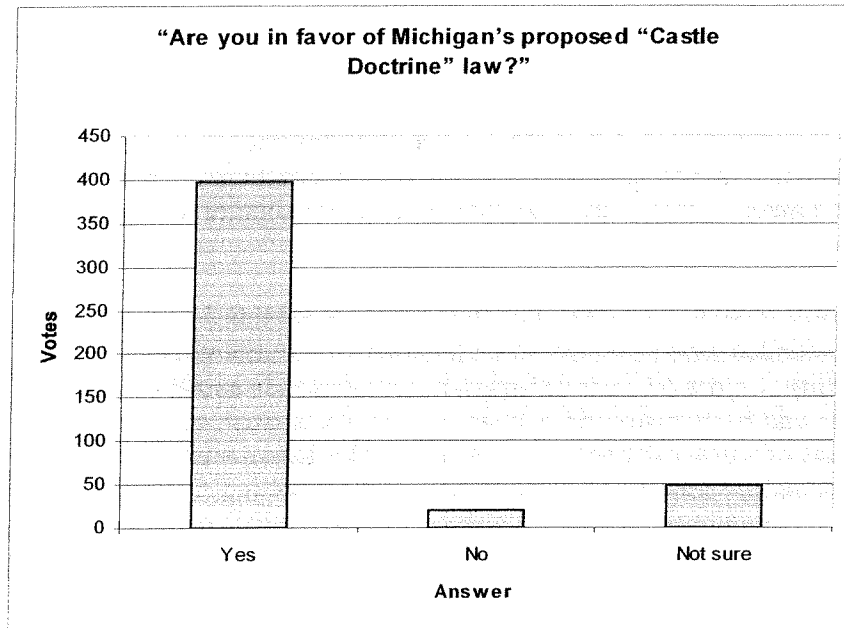
Castle Doctrine would end all of that and protect each and every law-abiding citizen of our great State, who is justified in the use of deadly force when he or she reasonably believes that deadly force is necessitated to prevent the commission of a forcible felony. No one should have to retreat if he or she is in a place where he or she has a right to be – in her own car, in her own garage, in her own yard, on her own porch, or even, heaven forbid, someplace more public. Castle Doctrine would help me, and all other law-abiding citizens and leave only one question to answer – was the shooting self-defense? Not did I run, hide, flee or crawl far enough to satisfy any Jury anywhere – independent of whether it is in a liberal or conservative jurisdiction or with a friendly or unfriendly Prosecutor.

Similarly, at this point in our history, someone who does defend him or herself in any of the circumstances above, even if held to be completely justified in the use of deadly force, and within the boundaries of his or her own home, can still face ruination in the form of lawsuits from the individual who caused the situation, or from his or her family.

Castle Doctrine would also afford financial protection to those who have been found to justifiably use deadly force to protect self or loved ones as defined in the law. Castle Doctrine would protect law-abiding citizens from being prosecuted under criminal law and from any civil action for the use of force as defined under the law. Effectively, what the law would do is

forbid the ruination of an individual who has had to use force against a felon in the commission of a crime and has sought only to employ what is that most basic human right – self-defense.

In a recent poll, the Holland Sentinel asked, “Are you in favor of Michigan’s proposed “Castle Doctrine” law?” The response was an overwhelming 85% in favor of the law out of 467 votes cast. Only 21 people said no to this improvement to Michigan State Statute.



Just as they have in Holland, I sincerely believe that the majority of Michigan citizens see the value of having this issue codified and support it overwhelmingly.

I cannot urge you strongly enough to support Castle Doctrine in Michigan and lend your strength and commitment to law abiding citizens and their right to be safe in both home and travel.

Sincerely,

Neva Li

PO Box 1046
Royal Oak, Michigan 48068

248-545-1442

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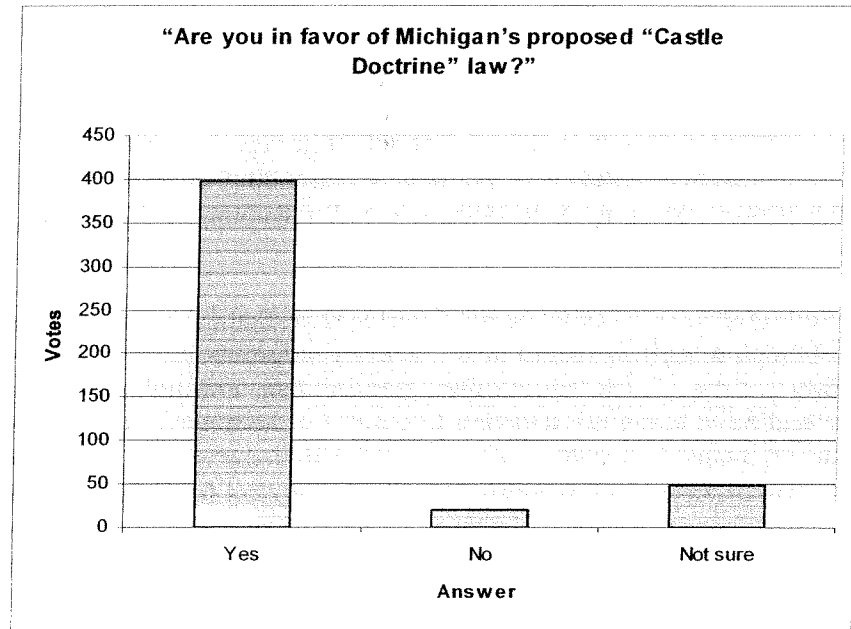
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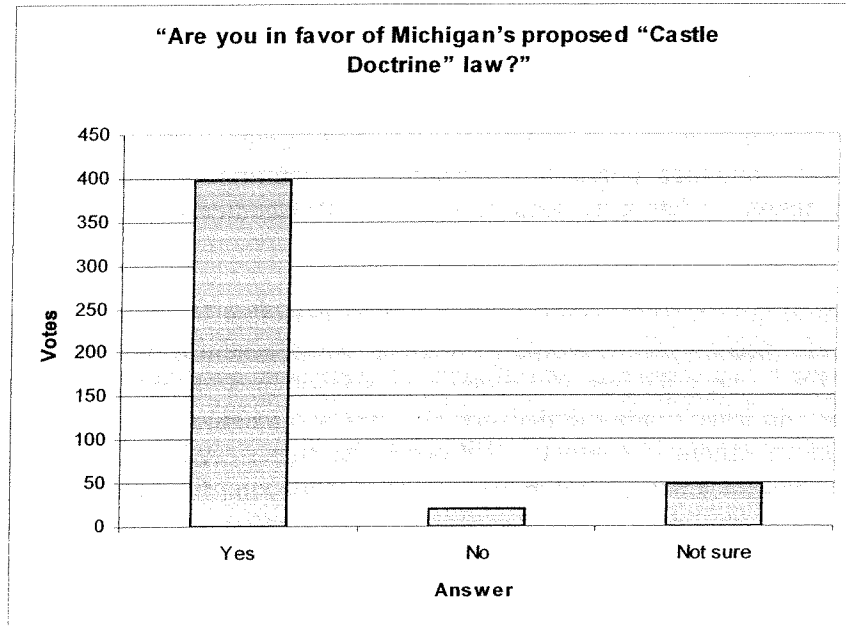
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